

From the Editor

With the motion picture "Black Hawk Down" now in theaters, *Soldiers* senior editor Heike Hasenauer takes us to Morocco for a behind-the-scenes look at the Army's role in the making of the movie.

Moving from Morocco to the mountains of Utah, Douglas Ide profiles 14 Army athletes who will likely compete in this month's Winter Olympics, in "Utah Gold."

For the making of maintenance gold medallists, don't miss "The National Maintenance Training Center," in which Jack Siemieniec showcases the Army's only facility that teaches entire units how to achieve maintenance excellence.

In the arena of spiritual maintenance, Beth Reece gives us an inside look at Islam in "Muslim and Soldier," which showcases her interview with the Army's first Muslim chaplain.

For a look at how you can prepare for the afterlife — life after the Army, that is — this quarter's issue of *Hot Topics* focuses on retirement planning and benefits. And, finally, read our "Writing and Shooting for Soldiers" insert to see how you can make your unit famous.

John C. Dutt

As Simple as NBC

I WOULD just like to make a quick comment about the picture of the soldier in "mask-only" posture on page 43 of your November edition.

This picture stuck out like a sore thumb, and drives home the point that NBC training should be integrated into all Army training exercises. I'm not sure what exactly the soldier is doing in the picture, but it seems to me he won't be able to effectively utilize his weapon.

We all know it is extremely difficult to aim a weapon effectively with a mask on, but it is even more difficult when your filter canister is on the wrong side of the mask. Could it be he is not wearing his assigned mask, or is he not really a left-handed firer? NBC NCOs should be taking care of these type things.

*SFC Richard A. Skinner
via e-mail*

Thumbs Up

I WANTED to express my appreciation for the excellent magazine you produce month after month.

Heike Hasenauer, in particular, should be commended for the tremendous efforts that went into the November edition. A quick count shows she authored seven articles and was responsible for filling 22 of the magazine's 48 pages of story material. That, in itself, is no small feat.

My more than 22 years of service took me many places, which I often get to see in Heike's stories. She writes with directness when presenting information articles, yet shifts to a compassionate style when human emotions and the impacts of Army life are the subject matter. And of course,

Know Thine Etiquette

THIS is my first time writing to your organization, but I thought it worth the time to send you a positive note.

I am pleased and impressed at your professionalism and tact in responding to the young specialist who thought the U.S. flag was improperly displayed. I sensed that your words were carefully chosen and your point well made.

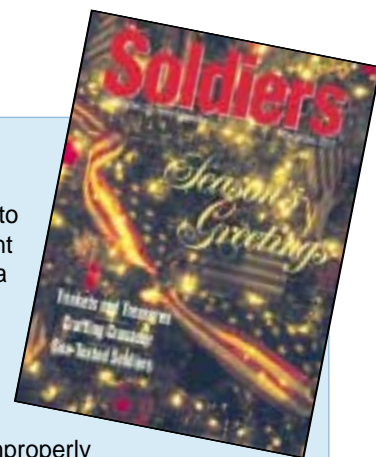
The points that I would like to bring out in relation to this correspondence are:

- We as parents, teachers and leaders deserve a swift kick for allowing our young people to even get out of elementary school without knowing basic customs and care for our national banner. As a side note, I am disappointed with my own soldiers who, when arbitrarily asked, cannot for the sake of their lives recite to me their second general order. Did we not learn this in basic training? Who on Earth ever gave us permission to forget the basics?

- The second point is that we, wanting badly to be "heard" by someone, are quite eager to point out the faults and mistakes committed by others, so much so that we often do not take the time to verify for ourselves what is correct.

Thank you for "listening." Best wishes to you all at *Soldiers* magazine. We appreciate what you do.

*CW2 Paul Lockhart
via e-mail*



Heike's ability to shoot illustrative, professional photos gives *Soldiers* added bang for the buck.

Though retired, I still serve as a DA civilian at Fort Gordon, Ga. And I look forward each month to reading your great publication.

*Mark A. Davies
via e-mail*

Ground-Zero Soldiers

MY name is MAJ Geoffrey K. Seals, and I command the New York Army Guard's 204th Engineer Battalion. I am one of the two soldiers pictured in the November article "After the Attack" standing beside a Humvee while Army Secretary Thomas

E. White points towards Ground Zero in Manhattan.

I just wanted to give names to the other faces that appear in the photo. To the far left is CPT Purcell, commander of Company B, 105th Infantry. Beside me, wearing a white helmet, is LTG Flowers, chief of engineers and commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The 204th Engr. Bn. was augmented by the soldiers of the 105th's B and C companies, who maintained close security at Ground Zero while our engineers secured the immediate surrounding area.

Other units on the ground included the 101st Cavalry Regiment, 258th Field Artillery, 42nd Aviation Brigade, 105th

and 442nd Military Police, and the 69th Inf., which we relieved in place. There were other units across all branches of the armed forces, which gave everyone tremendous inspiration in a time of true need.

We were all buoyed by the letters from schoolchildren, and the words of appreciation and support from citizens and city services personnel. Local disaster services agencies, volunteers and such area facilities as Fort Hamilton and Fort Wadsworth proved indispensable in providing basic subsistence and morale support. Everyone felt humbly honored being able to provide comfort and support to our nation in a time of need.

MAJ Geoffrey K. Seal
via e-mail

BAH, Humbug!

I AM a staff sergeant currently

stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. Because I'm single, I am required to live in the barracks. My battalion commander wrote a recommendation for BAH approval, but the housing office denied the request.

What do I want from Soldiers? I want to be the voice for all seasoned NCOs who are forced to either live in the barracks with their soldiers or pay for off-post housing.

The average staff sergeant has been in the military for at least 12 years. With this amount of time you accumulate many things. Will the punishment never end for being single in the military?

Ssg Andrea M. Green
Fort Bragg, N.C.

History Question

I AM very interested in World War II history, especially post-Normandy landing events. I

have visited the key objects on the Normandy beaches in France, and also visited Berchtesgaden in Germany where Hitler's house was situated.

All these places saw the 101st Airborne Division in action. I wonder if there is somebody left who fought his way from France to Germany and Austria, or experienced either of these conflicts. I would like to send e-mail to some of these heroes. Can you reach any of them? I intend to make another trip to Normandy soon.

Ari Aaltio
Finland

Your best bet is probably to visit the 101st Airborne Division Association's website (www.screamingeagle.org).

screamingeagle.org). You'll find a guestbook, useful information about the 101st's history and organization, and suggestions on how to contact World War II veterans of the 101st.

Medics' Medal

I JUST found a February 1977 Soldiers article entitled "AMA Honors Medics," which mentioned a Lifetime Achievement Award given to Army medics as a collective group. My husband was an Army medic in Vietnam in 1967 and 1968, and I'm wondering if this award is available to all Army medics who request it. If so, I would like to surprise him with it.

Gail Talarico
via e-mail

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